



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Sandra J. Adams*  
Commissioner

## Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

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July 22, 2014

To Whom It May Concern:

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Organic Program (NOP) has made funding available through the National Organic Certification Cost Share Program, providing reimbursement to eligible growers and processors for 75 percent of their 2014 certification costs up to a maximum of \$750 per category of certification.

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS) will administer the program in Virginia. The reimbursements will be for those who have successfully completed their organic certification from a USDA accredited certifying agency between October 1, 2013 and September 30, 2014. All paperwork must be submitted to VDACS no later than November 1, 2014. Funds will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis until they have been depleted.

The application and other pertinent information are available on the VDACS website at [www.virginiagrown.com](http://www.virginiagrown.com). Click on the "USDA Organic" symbol to access the organic webpage. Along with the application, we require an IRS W-9 tax form, a current copy of the applicant's organic certificate from an accredited certification agency, and a dated, paid itemized invoice from the certifier detailing total cost of services rendered.

Please inform appropriate growers and processors in your area that may be interested in the organic certification cost share program. We will not be printing the Virginia Organic Directory however a listing of Virginia Organic Growers and Producers is available on our website. I will be glad to answer any questions or concerns and can be contacted at [kent.lewis@vdacs.virginia.gov](mailto:kent.lewis@vdacs.virginia.gov) or 804-371-6098.

Sincerely,

Kent W. Lewis  
Director, Domestic Sales and Market Development